

Programme Specification

MSc Forensic Psychology



1. Programme title	MSc Forensic Psychology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	The British Psychological Society, Division of Forensic Psychology Training Committee MSc Forensic Psychology
5. Final qualification	MSc Forensic Psychology
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	FT/PT

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

For the MSc Forensic Psychology, candidates will possess a good honours degree (normally 2.1 or better) in Psychology that confers the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society (BPS). Students with a psychology degree obtained outside the UK will need to apply directly to the BPS to have their undergraduate degree recognised as conferring GBC. Where English is not a candidate's first language, they will usually be expected to demonstrate an IELTS of 7.0 (or equivalent). They will also normally have experience of work (voluntary or paid) in a relevant area associated with forensic psychology.

10. Aims of the programme

This programme aims to equip students with the stage 1 knowledge and skills for training as a Forensic Psychologist, as outlined in the BPS-DFPTC core curriculum, and to provide an intellectual setting within which students can both develop a fuller appreciation of substantive areas of Forensic Psychology and improve their practical and analytical skills. This particularly focuses on the goal of developing the knowledge and skills that are necessary to become effective ethical and reflective scientist-practitioners in forensic psychology. Students will extend their knowledge and understanding of current concepts and theories in forensic psychology, and will be encouraged to develop their problem solving, research, and evaluation skills. Throughout the programme they will learn and utilise

an evidence-based practice approach, in readiness for their progression as practitioners.

Students should normally have the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society, before registering on this programme. The programme is therefore designed to build upon certain key fundamental understandings of psychology that they should already possess. We also aim to facilitate students' development so that when they engage in supervised practice, they will have the necessary appreciation of ethical, governance, diversity and equality issues and will be prepared for work in interdisciplinary environments.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

Complex, inter-related, and sometimes competing, concepts, issues and debates in theories applied to Forensic Psychology.

The complexities of the practice of Forensic Psychology in professional contexts.

The professional application of forensic psychology to victims, offenders and communities

The professional application of psychology to the processes of the Criminal Justice System.

The complex theoretical and empirical underpinnings of forensic psychological assessments and interventions.

Advanced Research Methods in Psychology

The sensitive and multifaceted professional and ethical issues pertaining to forensic psychological practice.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through interactive lectures, small group activities, seminars, field trips, workshops and participation in individual and group based research projects (all outcomes). All aspects of teaching and learning involve significant learner activity, which allows students to engage with the material and encourages a deep approach to learning.

Assessment Methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework (summative and formative assessment) that includes: an extended essay (outcome 1 & 3), statistical assignments (outcome 6), field trip reports (outcome 3 & 4), reflective logbook entries (outcome 2, 5 & 7), expert reports (outcome 2 & 4), a PowerPoint presentation (outcomes 1, 2 & 3) and a research report (outcomes 1, 6 & 7).

<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reason analytically, creatively and originally in an effective and comprehensive manner. 2. Discuss in-depth issues in forensic psychology by drawing on a wide range of relevant and often contradictory evidence. 3. Comprehensively and critically evaluate research and theories in forensic psychology. 4. Make well-supported decisions about assessment and intervention in forensic psychology in the absence of complete data and/or in complex or unpredictable circumstances. 5. Effectively and appropriately evaluate research methodology. 6. Reflect in depth on learning and development. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain cognitive skills through interactive lectures, small group activities, seminars, field trips, workshops and participation in individual and group based research projects (all outcomes). All aspects of teaching and learning involve significant learner activity, which allows students to engage with the material and encourages a deep approach to learning</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by coursework (summative and formative assessment) that includes: an extended essay (outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 5), statistical assignments (outcome 5), field trip</p>
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independently plan, conduct and write-up research that addresses important and relevant forensic psychology issues. 2. Analyse quantitative and qualitative data, using appropriate analytical techniques. 3. Formulate and present structured arguments, that are effectively supported with up to date and pertinent literature. 4. Synthesise forensic psychological information for professional audiences. 5. Appropriately solve problems pertaining to forensic psychological practice. 6. Evaluate interventions, using pertinent methodologies and drawing on suitable evidence. 7. Take a reflective and ethical approach 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through participation in class discussion, and the preparation of presentations and coursework. They also learn practical skills through the Research Methods and Assessment, Intervention and Professional Practice modules. These skills will be further developed through the process of producing a research dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by coursework (summative and formative assessment) that includes: an extended essay (outcomes 3, 5 & 6), statistical assignments (outcome 2), field trip reports (outcomes 3 & 5), reflective logbook entries (outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7), expert</p>

<p>to their practice as a forensic psychologist in training.</p>	<p>reports (outcomes 3, 4, 5 & 6), a PowerPoint presentation (outcomes 3 & 4) and a research report (all outcomes).</p>
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chart, plan and reflect on their personal and career development. 2. Learn effectively in order to be able to demonstrate mastery of Forensic Psychology. 3. Work effectively as part of a team, taking leadership or membership roles as appropriate. 4. Use information technology to produce reports, search literature and analyse data. 5. Demonstrate advanced quantitative reasoning skills that are required to research and practice in the field of forensic psychology. 6. Communicate effectively with peers and professional colleagues. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through reflective logs (outcome 1), production of their professional and research reports (outcome 2), group work and workshops requiring collaboration and presentation skills (outcome 3), statistical workshops (outcomes 4 & 5).</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p><i>Students' graduate skills are assessed by coursework (summative and formative assessment) that includes: an extended essay (outcomes 2 & 4), statistical assignments (outcomes 4 & 5), field trip reports (outcomes 2 & 4), reflective logbook entries (outcomes 1, 2 & 4), expert reports (outcomes 2, 3 & 4), a PowerPoint presentation (outcomes 2 & 6) and a research report (outcomes 2, 4 & 5).</i></p>

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

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12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>PSY 4011 Advanced Research Methods in Psychology</p> <p>PSY 4030 Victims, Offenders and Communities</p> <p>PSY 4031 Psychology of Investigation and Criminal Justice</p> <p>PSY 4032 Assessment, Intervention and Professional Practice</p> <p>PSY 4035 Research: Practice and reporting</p>		

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
7	PSY4011, PSY4030, PSY4031, PSY4032, PSY4035

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

The University and School Assessment Policies apply to this programme (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/sectionepg.aspx>).

Programme specific requirements are:

- All summative components of each module must be passed.
- The pass mark for all modules is 40%. On the University's categorical marking scheme, this is a grade of 16. Further details on the 20 point scale are provided in the programme handbook.

A failed module may not be compensated, although there is the right to re-sit a failed module. A student

may only re-sit a failed component of a module once and the highest mark attainable for, that component, on re-sit will be the basic pass mark of 16 (40%).

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

There are no formal placement requirements however we do encourage voluntary arrangements and will do our best to facilitate them. The careers service is also available for advice and information during the programme and for up to two years after graduation

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Successful completion of this programme will enable the student to claim academic eligibility for enrolment on the Qualification in Forensic Psychology (Stage 2), which is based on 2 years of supervised practice that are not part of this programme. As well as undertaking stage 2 training, which often (though not exclusively) takes place within a prison environment, students also go on to work in a variety of other roles in which they use the knowledge and skills that they have obtained. A few examples include roles such as: police officer; crime data analyst; restorative justice practitioner; working with victims of domestic violence. Others have also gone on to further study to complete their stage 2 training by completing a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology, or have chosen to follow a research career by completing a PhD.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

In the first teaching week, we will provide specialist study skills sessions, covering uses of the

University's Learning Resources Service; bibliographic searches; computing at Middlesex; UniHub and the Learner Development Unit.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

011C810 (programme codes for alternative exit awards are: 034C812: PGDip Legal and Criminological Psychology and 035C810 PGCert Applied Psychology)

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

QAA psychology benchmark statement (2007), QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2010) and the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008).

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

The programme represents an opportunity for students to study material of the kind required by the British Psychological Society in order to gain the Academic Component necessary to become a Chartered member of the BPS and full member of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP). It draws on modules designed to comply with the National Occupational Standards for Psychologists and the Division of Forensic Psychology Training Committee's criteria for accreditation and syllabus.

Please note that the title 'Forensic Psychologist' is a protected title, and that practitioner forensic psychologists are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), which sets the training requirements (currently the same as is necessary to obtain full membership of the DFP).

21. Other information

This section shows how the programme covers the topics from the DFP-TC Accreditation Criteria

The context of practice in forensic psychology

Module coverage

psychology and criminal behaviour	PSY4030; PSY4032
appreciation of the legal framework of the law and the civil and criminal justice systems	PSY4031
methodological issues commensurate with the master's level of education	PSY4011; PSY4035
appreciation of the ethical and professional considerations of forensic practice	PSY4032; PSY4031; PSY4035
Applications of psychology to processes in the justice system	
psychology applied to the process of investigation	PSY4031
psychology applied to the legal process	PSY403
psychology applied to the process of detention	1
throughcare/aftercare	PSY4030; PSY4031
Working with specific client groups encountered in forensic psychology	
assessment and intervention with victims of offences (adults and children)	PSY4032
assessment and intervention with offenders (adults and children)	PSY4032
applications and interventions within criminal and civil justice systems, including attention to litigants, appellants, and individuals seeking arbitration and mediation.	PSY4032; PSY4031
* This section should include some coverage of all topics and detailed coverage of one or more of the topics in order to form the basis of a future specialism	
Using and communicating information in forensic psychological practice	
approaches to assessment	PSY4032
criteria for professional report production	PSY4031; PSY4032
giving of expert testimony	PSY4031
consultancy, project management, and organisational interventions	PSY4032
Empirical Research Project	PSY 4035
Research Methods	PSY4011; PSY4035

Appendix 2: Curriculum map for MSc Forensic Psychology

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Concepts, issues and debates in theories applied to Forensic Psychology.	C1	Independently plan, conduct and write-up research that addresses important and relevant forensic psychology issues.
A2	The practice of Forensic Psychology in professional contexts.	C2	Analyse quantitative and qualitative data.
A3	Applications of forensic psychology to victims, offenders and communities.	C3	Formulate and present structured arguments by drawing on evidence and theory.
A4	Applications of psychology to the processes of the Criminal Justice System.	C4	Synthesise forensic psychological information for professional audiences.
A5	Forensic psychological assessments and interventions.	C5	Solve problems pertaining to forensic psychological practice.
A6	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology.	C6	Evaluate interventions.
A7	Professional and ethical issues.	C7	Take a reflective and ethical approach to their practice as a forensic psychologist in training.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Reason analytically, creatively and originally.	D1	Chart, plan and reflect on their personal and career development.
B2	Discuss in-depth issues in forensic psychology by drawing in relevant evidence.	D2	Learn effectively in order to be able to demonstrate mastery of Forensic Psychology;
B3	Comprehensively and critically evaluate research and theories in forensic psychology.	D3	Work effectively as part of a team.
B4	Make decisions about assessment and intervention in forensic psychology in the absence of complete data and/or in complex or unpredictable circumstances.	D4	Use information technology to produce reports, search literature and analyse data.
B5	Evaluate research methodology.	D5	Demonstrate advanced quantitative reasoning skills that are required to research and practice in the field of forensic psychology.
B6	Reflect in depth on learning and development.	D6	Communicate effectively with peers.

Programme outcomes																										
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D21	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	
Highest level achieved by all graduates																										
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code	Programme outcomes																									
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Advanced research methods in psychology	PSY4011	X					X		X				X			X	X								X	X	
Victims, Offenders and Communities	PSY4030	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Psychology of Investigation and Criminal Justice	PSY4031	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Assessment, Intervention and Professional Practice	PSY4032	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Research: Practice and Reporting	PSY4035	X					X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X					X		X	X	X

